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**WARREN TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brittny Ellis of Warren Township High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ellis is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Warren Township High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Ellis as Illinois's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Ellis joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-10 senior won three individual Class 3A state championships this spring and led the Blue Devils to a second-place finish as a team. Ellis became the first Class 3A runner in a decade to win the sprint triple, capturing the 100 with a time of 11.85 seconds, the 200 in 24.38 and the 400 in 54.19. She took sixth in the 400 at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China in 2014.

Ellis has maintained a weighted 4.40 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and Kindred Life Ministries, providing assistance for teen-aged mothers.

"What separates Brittny from the rest is her humility," said Warren Township coach Ryan Dunn. "Her attitude, sportsmanship and coachability make it easy for coaches, teammates and even rivals to like her."

Ellis has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Miami this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Ellis joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Parker English (2013-14, Evanston Township High School), Emmonnie Henderson (2012-13, Edwardsville High School), Aaliyah Brown (2011-12, Lincoln-Way East High School), Jena Hemann (2010-11, Central Community High School), Kelsey Card (2009-10, Carlinville), Daniella Bunch (2008-09 & 2007-08, Mahomet-Seymour), and Egle Stasiunaite (2006-07, Downers Grove South) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.